



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

414 / 297-1700

Milwaukee, WI 53202

TTY 414 / 297-1088

Press Release

August 25, 2010

Parolee Charged in Federal Court With Various Identity Theft Crimes

United States Attorney James L. Santelle announced that a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Wisconsin has charged Kurtis E. Armann, age 35, with possession of false identification documents, unlawful possession of document-making implements, and aggravated identity theft. The charges stem from Armann's arrest in a Brookfield, Wisconsin hotel on January 8, 2010, at which time he allegedly was found in possession of false identification documents, specialized equipment and software for producing such documents, and personal data concerning real individuals whose identities he allegedly compromised.

The aggravated identity theft charge against Armann carries a mandatory minimum prison sentence of two years, to run consecutive to any other sentence that may be imposed in the case. Congress enacted these penalties in 2004, as part of the "Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act," to address the "growing problem of identity theft." The prosecution of Armann, who is currently incarcerated at a federal correctional facility in Texas as a result of a parole violation, results from a multi-state investigation by the United States Secret Service. The United States Marshal's Service located and arrested Armann and the Brookfield, Wisconsin Police Department assisted with the investigation of Armann's identity theft crimes. Assistant United States Attorney Jonathan H. Koenig is prosecuting this case.

According to United States Attorney James L. Santelle, "Identity theft crimes are a top priority for the Department of Justice because of their devastating impact on individual victims, their high financial cost to society, and the strong connection between identity theft and other serious financial crimes such as bank and mortgage fraud."

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

#

For additional information contact:

Assistant United States Attorney Jonathan H. Koenig

Public Information Officer Dean Puschnig

(414) 297-1700